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CONFILES CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY

Germany

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SUBJECT

Faul Merker in Berlin

CONFIDENTIA

DATE:

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This document is ereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the DIST.

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SUPPLEMENT

17 December 19/

ORIGIN 25X1X6

> Since his return from Mexico, where he is supposed to have written an important work on German history, Paul Merker has become the big man in the background in the Central Committee of the SED. Here he is supervising a muster of activities: returning PW's, svacuees, trade unions, social policy, and agriculture. Merker returned from Mexico on a Soviet ship to Vladivostok, then by the Trans-Siberian reliroad via Moscow to Berlin. He is living, at present, in Weissensee but is expected to move to Pankow, where some top SED leaders live.

2. Another source states that until 1932/33 Paul Merker was in the Central Directorate of the RPD as head of the communist trade union work (RGO). It is expected that he will assume a similar post now. Merker is described as a jovisl, sociable man with a thorough Markian training which conditions his approach to all problems. Since he is well known among KPD and SPD circles, it is thought unlikely that he will be assigned to any important undercover work.

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